

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 275

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles A. "Gus" Manning of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles A. "Gus" Manning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning was an exemplary gentleman and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville on July 8, 1923, Mr. Manning served his country during World War II in the Marine Corps and then proceeded to attend the University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, during his time at UT, he was a walk-on football player in 1947 and later earned a varsity letter in baseball in 1948; after his graduation, he was hired by General Robert R. Neyland as sports information director, continuing in employment at the athletic department until his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning's tenure at the athletic department saw him serve as sports information director, administrative assistant, and senior associate athletics director, and his cumulative duties extended over all aspects of the athletic department's operations; and

WHEREAS, for his myriad and multi-faceted efforts, Mr. Manning was honored in three halls of fame: the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the TSSAA Football Officials Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was named National Business Manager of the Year in 1989 by the College Athletics Business Managers Association and received the Pat Summitt Ignite Greatness Award in 2019; and

WHEREAS, respected by his peers across the Southeastern Conference (SEC), Mr. Manning was a former president of both the SEC sports information directors and the SEC business managers organizations; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years, he was associated with WIVK radio and *Vol Reports* for both football and basketball; he was also a co-host on WIVK for forty-nine years with Haywood Harris on the *Locker Room*, the longest continuously running radio sports program in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning co-authored *Six Seasons Remembered: The National Championship Years of Tennessee Football* and *Once a Vol, Always a Vol* with his WIVK co-host, Haywood Harris; and

WHEREAS, facilitated by his position as a UT staff member, Mr. Manning exhibited extreme devotion to his beloved football team by attending 608 consecutive games, a streak only interrupted by an injury sustained on the journey to his prospective 609<sup>th</sup> game; and

WHEREAS, his abiding and abundant love of UT athletics was given physical form in 2015 by way of a gate in Neyland Stadium being named the "Gus Manning Gate"; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of St. John XXIII Parish and Catholic Center, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning is survived by his son, Sammy Joe (Meg Cifers) Manning; his grandchildren, Chad (Clare) Manning, Joe Manning, and Elizabeth Manning (fiancé Alex Snyder); his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Rose Manning; his brother-in-law, A.J. Bussell; his special niece, Kathy Manning; and several other nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Manning was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Bussell Manning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charles A. "Gus" Manning, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Manning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.